

## Message Text

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42

ACTION SS-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 PRS-01 M-02 A-01 PER-01 DRC-01

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P 080004Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2864

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FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FROM HARTMAN

TO BE DELIVERED OPENING OF BUSINESS AUGUST 8

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, CY

SUBJ: COMMENDATION FOR EMBASSY NICOSIA

1. IN A PAUSE IN MY TRIP, I WOULD LIKE TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THE MAGNIFICANT PERFORMANCE OF OUR REMAINING STAFF IN CYPRUS. FROM THEIR MODEST FACTUAL ACCOUNTS, I LEARNED OF INNUMERABLE CASES OF PERSONAL BRAVERY, INGENUITY, AND ROUND-THE-CLOCK HARD WORK. ROUNDING UP ALL THE AMERICANS DURING THE COUP AND THE INVASION; DRIVING AROUND THE CITY AND THE COUNTRY, WITH CHE GUEVERA-TYPES ARMED TO THE TEETH AT EVERY CORNER, IN ORDER TO ASSURE THE SAFETY OF AMERICANS AND OTHERS; DEALING WITH EXCITABLE CHARACTERS OF EVERY KNOWN NATIONALITY AND POLITICAL PERSUASION; AND ALL THE WHILE MAKING FATEFUL JUDGMENT ABOUT WHEN TO MOVE AND WHEN NOT TO MOVE. ALL OF THIS AS A BACKDROP TO THE EXCELLENT, ACCURATE, PERCEPTIVE, CALM, COOL REPORTING THAT WE ALL VALUED SO HIGHLY. THE AMBASSADOR'S LEADERSHIP WAS CLEARLY THE KEY ELEMENT IN OBTAINING THIS OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE. HE TOLD ME MATTER OF FACTLY, AS WE LISTENED TO THE NIGHTLY GUNFIRE, THAT TO AVOID THE HYSTERIC WHICH SET IN IN THE HOTEL CORRIDORS WHERE MANY HAD TAKEN REFUGE

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HE TOOK SOME OF THE CHILDREN UP TO THE ROOF OF THE

EMBASSY TO ASSURE THEM THAT THE FRIGHTENING SOUNDS THEY HEARD WERE "MERELY" THE NATIONAL GUARD MORTARS AND GUNS SHOOTING FROM A 1/2 MILE SOUTH TO THE NORTHERN EDGE OF TOWN WHERE THE TURKISH PARATROOPERS HAD DROPPED IN FULL VIEW OF THE EMBASSY OBSERVERS. THUS SATISFIED WITH THIS BRIEF EXPOSURE TO MILITARY DOCTRINE THE YOUNGSTERS RETURN TO THEIR LOWER FLOOR HALLS, COVERED THEIR HEADS AND SLEPT. THE COUP CAUSED MUCH MORE DAMAGE TO THE CITY THAN THE TURKISH FIGHTING BUT, BY THE TIME ALL THE STENS WERE HANDED OUT TO THE RECENTLY LIBERATED DENIZENS OF THE LOCAL PRISONS, NICOSIA WAS NOT A HEALTHY PLACE TO BE.

2. MORALE OF THE STAFF - INCLUDING A VOLUNTEER SECRETARY FROM BONN IS HIGH. THEY AWAIT GENEVA TO SEE IF THE SITUATION WILL REMAIN CALM ENOUGH TO RETURN THE DEPENDENTS FROM BEIRUT. ALL DOGS AND CATS ARE BEING FED.

3. I SPOKE WORDS OF APPRECIATION FOR ALL OF US TO THE STAFF BUT I AM SURE THAT THEY WOULD WELCOME A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OR YOURSELF.

SOHM

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